



### THE 2006 MINERVA AWARD WINNERS:

#### DR. SALLY RIDE – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Sally Ride is the embodiment of Minerva. She is a pioneer in space, science and technology. Her name inspires the hopes and dreams of people from around the globe who regard space exploration as the last frontier of discovery and opportunity. She stands out as a woman whose example and life's work encourages young girls to stretch and seek careers in science and technology – to break through the glass ceiling that has been a historic barrier to women. Ride is President and CEO of Sally Ride Science and professor of Physics at University of California, San Diego. In addition to teaching and research, she has long been involved in educational outreach. Ride founded the Sally Ride Science Center to expand her commitment to support girls and young women interested in science and math. She also initiated NASA's EarthKAM project, which has enabled thousands of middle school students to take photographs of Earth from a camera aboard the International Space Station. Ride has written five children's science books and has spoken at over 200 events for girls, young women and teachers. She has received many honors and awards, including induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

#### JANE ALEXANDER

"Citizen Jane" Alexander is an extraordinary crusader for crime victims' rights and the Co-Founder and Vice President of Citizens Against Homicide. Now 84-years old, Alexander's courageous journey began 20 years ago - in her sixties - when most women would be settling into retirement. In 1983, Jane Alexander was a 61-year-old widow and mother of six children in Marin County, California. She intended to settle into active old age with her boyfriend, Tom O'Donnell, but her life changed when her 88-year-old aunt, Gertrude McCabe, was brutally murdered in her San Jose home. Alexander soon discovered the killer was O'Donnell. With little forensic evidence to support an arrest, she worked diligently to bring her aunt's murderer to justice. For thirteen years, she consistently fought through the red tape of the criminal justice system and struggled with bankruptcy and foreclosure, before finally seeing O'Donnell behind bars. Citizens Against Homicide provides invaluable support for the thousands of survivors and friends

of murder victims who suffer the devastating loss of a loved one and the continued emotional trauma of coping with our criminal justice system.

### **SANDRA OROZCO STAPLETON, RAMONA DELGADO AND JENNIE HERNANDEZ GIN**

Sandra Orozco Stapleton, Ramona Delgado and Jennie Hernandez Gin founded WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment) as three victims of domestic violence tired of living in fear and having nowhere to turn for support. WEAVE is the first and only organization in the Sacramento region to provide emergency shelter and related support services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Stapleton, Delgado and Hernandez Gin also challenged the Sacramento community to embrace appropriate changes in attitude and become aware about domestic violence as an important social issue. They have opened their homes to victims of domestic violence that needed a safe place to escape the violence of their own homes and have served as advocates on behalf of the victims' with law enforcement and social service agencies when nobody else would. They campaigned to convince local agencies that domestic violence is a serious crime against women and children and must be addressed by the government. WEAVE helps over 6,000 victims every year and is a nationally recognized domestic violence and sexual assault agency.

We send our heartfelt condolences to the family of Sandra Orozco Stapleton who passed away on Saturday, December 9, 2006 of complications from acute myeloid leukemia. She was a remarkable woman who dared to envision a better world. She demonstrated great strength and courage in the midst of profound obstacles throughout her lifetime, but she never failed to fight or struggle for what she valued most in life. Sandra was a true architect of change for the women of California and through she will be truly missed, her legacy serves as an inspiration to each of us.

### **MARILYN HAMILTON**

When a tragic accident in 1979 left her paralyzed for life with a spinal chord injury, Marilyn Hamilton stayed strong and in the process helped change the public's perception of the disabled. Her innovative design of the "Quickie" wheelchair - which can easily fold up and be put in a car trunk or on a bus - has revolutionized the wheelchair industry, allowing many disabled people to live more productive and active lives. Hamilton continued this crusade by founding "Winners on Wheels," a program to inspire young children in chairs. To date there are more than 39 "WOW" programs throughout the country. She also saw a need to help those beyond our borders and began a program to distribute used and refurbished wheelchairs to people in third world countries. Hamilton didn't stop there. She went on to compete and become a Two-Time U.S. Open Wheelchair Tennis Champion, Two-Time Silver Medalist in the Paralympics Ski Championship and a Six-Time National Disabled Champion. -- more -- She currently serves as Vice-President of Global Strategic Planning for Sunrise Medical, who purchased Motion Designs (the company Marilyn co-founded to

manufacture the Quickie). Hamilton was also inducted into the "Spinal Cord Injury – Hall of Fame" in 2005, the same year that actor Christopher Reeve was inducted posthumously. She is also co-founder of Discovery through Design.